



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 903

January Session, 2017

* SB00903PH 032917 *

**AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-195aa of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

3 As used in [sections 20-195aa] this section and sections 20-195bb to
4 20-195ee, inclusive:

5 (1) "Licensed professional counselor" or "professional counselor"
6 means a person who has been licensed as a professional counselor
7 pursuant to this chapter;

8 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

9 (3) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;

10 (4) "Professional counseling" means the application, by persons
11 trained in counseling, of established principles of psycho-social
12 development and behavioral science to the evaluation, assessment,
13 analysis, diagnosis and treatment of emotional, behavioral or
14 interpersonal dysfunction or difficulties that interfere with mental
15 health and human development. "Professional counseling" includes,
16 but is not limited to, individual, group, marriage and family

17 counseling, functional assessments for persons adjusting to a
18 disability, appraisal, crisis intervention and consultation with
19 individuals or groups; [.]

20 (5) "Under professional supervision" means the practice of
21 professional counseling under the supervision of a licensed
22 professional counselor, a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370,
23 who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and
24 Neurology, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to
25 chapter 378, who is certified as an adult psychiatric and mental health
26 clinical nurse specialist by the American Nurses Credentialing Center,
27 a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383, a marital and family
28 therapist licensed pursuant to chapter 383a or a licensed clinical social
29 worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b; and

30 (6) "Direct professional supervision" means face-to-face consultation
31 between one supervisor, who is a professional described in subdivision
32 (5) of this section, and one person receiving supervision that consists of
33 not less than a monthly review with a written evaluation and
34 assessment by the supervisor of such person's practice of professional
35 counseling.

36 Sec. 2. Section 20-195cc of the general statutes is repealed and the
37 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

38 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health shall grant a license as a
39 professional counselor to any applicant who furnishes evidence
40 satisfactory to the commissioner that such applicant has met the
41 requirements of section 20-195dd, as amended by this act. The
42 commissioner shall develop and provide application forms. The
43 application fee shall be three hundred fifteen dollars.

44 (b) Licenses issued under this section may be renewed annually
45 pursuant to section 19a-88. The fee for such renewal shall be one
46 hundred ninety-five dollars. Each licensed professional counselor
47 applying for license renewal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the

48 commissioner of having participated in continuing education
 49 programs. The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
 50 with chapter 54, to (1) define basic requirements for continuing
 51 education programs [, which] that shall include (A) not less than one
 52 contact hour of training or education each registration period on the
 53 topic of cultural competency, [and,] (B) on and after January 1, 2016,
 54 not less than two contact hours of training or education during the first
 55 renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less
 56 than once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health
 57 conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans,
 58 including [(A)] (i) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family
 59 member of a veteran, [(B)] (ii) screening for conditions such as post-
 60 traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and
 61 [(C)] (iii) suicide prevention training, and (C) on and after January 1,
 62 2018, not less than three contact hours of training or education each
 63 registration period on the topic of professional ethics, (2) delineate
 64 qualifying programs, (3) establish a system of control and reporting,
 65 and (4) provide for a waiver of the continuing education requirement
 66 for good cause.

67 Sec. 3. Section 20-195dd of the general statutes is repealed and the
 68 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

69 (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this
 70 section, an applicant for a license as a professional counselor shall,
 71 prior to January 1, 2019, submit evidence satisfactory to the
 72 [Commissioner of Public Health] commissioner of having: [(1)] (A)
 73 Completed sixty graduate semester hours in or related to the discipline
 74 of counseling at a regionally accredited institution of higher education,
 75 [which] that included coursework in each of the following areas: [(A)]
 76 (i) Human growth and development, [(B)] (ii) social and cultural
 77 foundations, [(C)] (iii) counseling theories and techniques or helping
 78 relationships, [(D)] (iv) group dynamics, [(E)] (v) processing and
 79 counseling, [(F)] (vi) career and lifestyle development, [(G)] (vii)
 80 appraisals or tests and measurements for individuals and groups, [(H)]

81 (viii) research and evaluation, and [(I)] (ix) professional orientation to
82 counseling; [(2)] (B) earned, from a regionally accredited institution of
83 higher education a master's or doctoral degree in social work, marriage
84 and family therapy, counseling, psychology or a related mental health
85 field; [(3)] (C) acquired three thousand hours of postgraduate-degree-
86 supervised experience in the practice of professional counseling,
87 performed over a period of not less than one year, that included a
88 minimum of one hundred hours of direct supervision by [(A)] (i) a
89 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 who has obtained
90 certification in psychiatry from the American Board of Psychiatry and
91 Neurology, [(B)] (ii) a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383,
92 [(C)] (iii) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to
93 chapter 378 and certified as a clinical specialist in adult psychiatric and
94 mental health nursing with the American Nurses Credentialing Center,
95 [(D)] (iv) a marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to chapter
96 383a, [(E)] (v) a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter
97 383b, [(F)] (vi) a professional counselor licensed, or prior to October 1,
98 1998, eligible for licensure, pursuant to section 20-195cc, or [(G)] (vii) a
99 physician certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry
100 and Neurology, psychologist, advanced practice registered nurse
101 certified as a clinical specialist in adult psychiatric and mental health
102 nursing with the American Nurses Credentialing Center, marital and
103 family therapist, clinical social worker or professional counselor
104 licensed or certified as such or as a person entitled to perform similar
105 services, under a different designation, in another state or jurisdiction
106 whose requirements for practicing in such capacity are substantially
107 similar to or higher than those of this state; and [(4)] (D) passed an
108 examination prescribed by the commissioner. Any such applicant who,
109 on or before July 1, 2017, is a matriculating student in good standing in
110 a graduate degree program at a regionally accredited institution of
111 higher education in one of the fields required under subparagraph (B)
112 of this subdivision on or before July 1, 2017, but who cannot
113 reasonably complete the requirements set forth in this subdivision
114 prior to January 1, 2019, as determined by the commissioner, may
115 apply for a license under this subdivision on and after January 1, 2019.

116 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this
117 section, an applicant for a license as a professional counselor shall, on
118 and after January 1, 2019, submit evidence satisfactory to the
119 commissioner of having: (A) (i) Earned a graduate degree in clinical
120 mental health counseling as part of a program of higher learning
121 accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related
122 Educational Programs, or a successor organization, or (ii) (I) completed
123 at least sixty graduate semester hours in counseling at a regionally
124 accredited institution of higher education that included coursework in
125 each of the following areas: Human growth and development; social
126 and cultural foundations; counseling theories; counseling techniques;
127 group counseling; career counseling; appraisals or tests and
128 measurements to individuals and groups; research and evaluation;
129 professional orientation to mental health counseling; addiction and
130 substance abuse counseling; trauma and crisis counseling; and
131 diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, (II) earned
132 from a regionally accredited institution of higher education a graduate
133 degree in counseling, (III) completed a one-hundred-hour practicum in
134 counseling, and (IV) completed a six-hundred-hour clinical mental
135 health counseling internship; (B) acquired three thousand hours of
136 postgraduate experience under professional supervision, including a
137 minimum of one hundred hours of direct professional supervision, in
138 the practice of professional counseling, performed over a period of not
139 less than two years; and (C) passed an examination prescribed by the
140 commissioner.

141 (b) An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall present
142 evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the applicant is licensed
143 or certified as a professional counselor, or as a person entitled to
144 perform similar services under a different designation, in another state
145 or jurisdiction whose requirements for practicing in such capacity are
146 substantially similar to or higher than those of this state and that there
147 are no disciplinary actions or unresolved complaints pending.

148 (c) An applicant who is [currently] licensed or certified as a

149 professional counselor or its equivalent in another state, territory or
150 commonwealth of the United States may substitute three years of
151 licensed or certified work experience in the practice of professional
152 counseling in lieu of the requirements of [subdivision (3)]
153 subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, or
154 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, as
155 applicable, provided the commissioner finds that such experience is
156 equal to or greater than the requirements of this state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	20-195aa
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	20-195cc
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	20-195dd

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Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	20-195cc
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	20-195dd

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*